

84th Chemical Battalion

The Dragon's Breath

Family Readiness Group Newsletter

Commander's Comments

It's time again for another update and newsletter. Before I forget, I want to publicly thank Sheri Graham for the work she has done, and continues to do, in getting the newsletter published. Sheri has to put up with all of us procrastinators who wait to the last minute to get their article in and I want to say 'thanks' for what you do for the Battalion.

As usual there is a lot going on in the Battalion and we've had a very busy time over the last couple of months. First off, we had a great success with our Christmas Party. We had an outstanding turnout of almost 400 Soldiers, civilians, and family members. We all enjoyed a great meal, a nice slide show, and a visit from Santa. The evening was capped off by giving away over \$1,000 in coupons and prizes. I think everyone had fun visiting and I know all the children really liked the arts and crafts room that was such a great success. All in all it was a first class event and we once again have the Battalion FRG to thank. Special thanks go out to HHC (CPT Cyr and 1SG Williams) for their work in organizing the man power and scheduling; to our FRG Leader Mrs. Brenda Bates for her oversight of the planning, and Shalene Main for her hard work in organizing the children's activities. If I've left anyone out I apologize, there are just too many people to mention because of all the individual effort that went in to the party.

The train isn't slowing down. Over the next quarter the Battalion will undergo numerous changes and will continue to host quality events. The biggest change that will impact the Battalion most is the Change of Responsibility on 9 March when CSM Parker will transfer his authority to CSM Thomas Copeland. We all know of CSM Parker's numerous contributions to the Soldiers and families of the Battalion. There are too many to mention here. Needless to say CSM Parker and Traci will be sorely missed as they depart Fort Leonard Wood and the Hellfire Battalion for Aberdeen Proving Ground and the 22nd Chemical Battalion. The Soldiers in the Battalion will have a Dining In on the 17th of February in honor of CSM Parker, and we all look forward to enjoying a night out and the fellowship and camaraderie that will take place that night.

The FRG's next event will be a new event and should prove to be a lot of fun. We will build on the existing 'Chili Cook Off' that the Battalion has done for the past 6 years and we'll attempt to improve on it. This year we'll combine the Chili Cook Off with a little golf tournament. The new name – The Chili Scramble. We will hold this on the 30th of March during the afternoon. The FRG will begin planning this over the next month or so and the details will follow.

As always, we welcome participation from all cadre family members and students attending BOLC and CMC3 courses. I want to thank all our Soldier and civilian cadre for all the hard work they do, and I also want to thank all the family members for their support to their Soldiers and their active participation in the FRG.

Hot off the press: CONGRADULATIONS goes out to CPT Luke & Kari Hammond of the birth of their newest edition: Isabella Rose, Welcome to the 84th Chemical Battalion.

HELLFIRE!
LTC THOMAS

Upcoming Events

11 Feb: FW Spouses Club Luncheon @ 11AM

17 Feb: Dining In

19 Feb: Presidents Day

9 Mar: CSM Parker Change of Responsibility

11 Mar: Daylight Savings

22 Mar: Battalion Spouses Coffee

27 Mar: FWSC Luncheon

30 Mar: Chili Scramble

31 Mar: FWSC Wild West Night

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HHC FRG News November 2006-January 2007

HHC FRG News NOV06

What's hot !

November was a busy month for HHC. L4 BIDS class #01-07 graduated with 24 students at the Pershing Community Club 14 NOV 06 and L4 BIDS class #02-07 started training this month. We finally hailed in MAJ Thamar Main, the battalion XO and CPT Kari Hammond, the battalion operations officer at Billy Bob's Honky Tonk. The meal consisted of BBQ beef, mash potatoes with gravy and green bean casserole. CPT Andrew Bochat was awarded the 1st annual Hell Fire "bull-riding champion" belt buckle. Also new to the company is SSG Bond (James Bond?) who will be assigned to CTD. He wants everyone to know that he likes his drinks shaken, not stirred. Welcome aboard!

SSG Crews coordinated an essay contest in celebration of drug free awareness week. SFC Wise submitted the winning essay in the adult category while SSG Laterza's children Mandi and Anthony won in their age groups. Thanks to all who participated.

The company went 54 days without a reportable accident until SSG Hamlin injured his thumb during a flag football game. On a more serious note, the company had one of its Fox vehicles sink during a water crossing exercise this month due to some equipment misplacement issues. I want to emphasize that the Instructor and student who were piloting the vehicle did everything correctly. Emergency evacuation and shut down procedures were performed flawlessly by SFC Avington.

May you all have a safe and wonderful Thanksgiving. The officers of the 84th will be serving chow in the dining facility for Soldiers within the brigade on Thanksgiving day. I'm looking forward to watching the Broncos crush the Chiefs and Colorado pull off the upset by beating Nebraska. More to follow later.

CPT Cyr

Dragon master 6

"Train the Corps"

HHC FRG News DEC 06

What's hot !

December was yet another busy month for HHC. L5 RECON class #002-07 graduated this month with 16 soldiers as well as L4 BIDS class #002-07, which graduated 24 students.

The Holiday party was a huge success. Holiday turkey, roast beef, broccoli Normandy, stuffing, and various deserts were on the menu to name a few. The cash bar turned out popular for the BOLC students

SFC Ferguson, SFC Schimpff and I all had scheduled surgery this month and took the Christmas break to recuperate so we can keep up with the younger soldiers.

More to follow later.

Dragon master 6

"Train the Corps"

HHC FRG News JAN 07

What's hot !

January was yet another busy month for HHC. The Christmas EXODUS is over and everyone is back to work. We're at day 81 of no reportable accidents and it looks as though HF6 owes us all a day off for making it to 84. L5 RECON class #002-07 started training this month as well as OPRAD class # 02-07. L4 BIDS class #001-07 graduated 24 students, many of them returning to FT Polk, LA.

Congratulations to SSG Charles, who gave birth to a healthy baby girl, Nevaeh Marie, on January 6th. Nevaeh (heaven spelled backwards) weighed in at 7lbs 6oz.

MAJ Gould and SFC Wise role-played International journalists for Alpha company's BOLC class # 904-07 to show the lieutenants what it's like to be in front of the news media in preparation for deploying to S/W Asia.

More to follow later.

Dragon master 6

"Train the Corps"

Family Readiness Group Information and Updates

A huge thank you to everyone who helped out and participated in our Battalion Christmas Party. Over 400 Soldiers & family members participated the total cost was \$5,364. After funding from MWR, ISD and the FRG we were able to defray the cost from \$16.00 a plate to \$9.00. The FRG paid \$300.00 for the children's activities and Santa goodies.

A special thank you to Shalene Main who deserves all the credit for arranging the children's crafts and goodie bags. Thank you to Pat Neal from the ISD Department who went and purchased all the decorations for the dinning area. Thanks to everyone who helped in the planning and set up of the Christmas party with out your help it wouldn't have been such a huge success. Thanks to Karen Thomas and all the volunteers who participated in our gift wrap and bake sale fund raiser by volunteering you helped the FRG raise a total of \$284.20.

We are trying to put together an FRG email roster. Anyone who would like to be added, please contact me. You will receive information on FRG activities, meetings, fundraisers, and information that may be of interest to you and your family. Our latest FRG meetings have went very well, we try to keep our meetings under 1 hour. At our last meeting we had a baked potato bar with everyone's favorite toppings. Please come out and give the FRG a chance to get to know you. Upcoming FRG meetings are: March 13; May 8; July 10; Sept 11; Nov. 13 @ Nord Hall 6:00pm.

Brenda Bates
84th Chemical Battalion FRG Leader
batesbrenda@hotmail.com

Note from the editor

Thank you everyone for your contributions to the newsletter. After tweaking here and there, I think we have worked all of the kinks out. The Newsletter will be published every other month. We can now email out the newsletter. Please make sure you contact Brenda with your email so you can receive the newsletter quickly. We also hope to save a few trees by cutting down on hard copies that we mail out. If anyone has any comments or suggestions, I encourage them to let Brenda or myself know. Look for the next newsletter the beginning of April. I hope to see a lot of you at our next FRG meeting!

Thanks again,
Sheri
sherijograham@netzero.com

Marital Communication Class Open to all with Pizza lunch: Thurman Hall, Room TH 1436 12-1245, on FEB 12. This is a good workshop with good discussion. Spouses are especially invited!

Marital Evening at the Point in Dixon: I am looking to take couples of the 84th to the Point in Dixon for dinner and a short message on marital communication. This will be coming soon. It will be paid for out of the Chaplain's fund.

As always, please call or e mail me with issues or family concerns:
david.mcmillan@wood.army.mil or 563-7952, office at the Chemical School.

Blessings.

CH David McMillan, 84th Chem Chaplain

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CORNER

84th Happenings

Hi Everyone. Well, there is so much that has happened, and so much to come. We have had: Promotions, Babies, Gift Wrapping, Bake sales, Holiday Meal Raffles, Dinning Outs, Community Service Projects, Coffees, Baked Potato Meetings, Luncheons, Mobiles, Wrestling, Snow storms, Ice Storms..... In the next few months we will be having a Bahamas Mama Party, Farewells, Welcome Receptions, Graduations, AFAP Conference, Bowling, Luncheons, Basketball, ... and so the list goes on. The bottom line is — it all happens with YOU. We may be *Lost in the Woods* but everyone of you is what makes this a Great Place. I really enjoy seeing all of you. So if I hurry by and don't say anything, I am in my planning trance. So, Please stop me so I can snap out of it and chat. That is always more fun! We had a great Christmas Party at the Audie Murphy Club. It is always such a pleasure seeing you and your families. Between Santa and our Craft room, the kids had plenty to do and fun doing it. And the prizes, Wow! I won't name any names, but, these days it takes a lot of creativity to acquire prizes for every event we have. I am so impressed with your ingenuity (you know who you are). A lot of hard work and planning went into this, Thank You. I truly appreciate all of you, and all that you do. We will be saying Goodbye to a very special Hellfire family the PARKERS. They will be leaving us in March. CSM Parker's Change of Responsibility will be March 9. You will be sorely missed. "Traci, who will I dance with"? And, CSM Parker, no one says "Hellfire" as often and as well as you. CSM Copeland and Lisa will be joining us in March. A big "Hellfire" welcome to you. CCSSG will be hosting a Coffee on the 22nd of February at 6:30 pm at the Bowling Alley. This event is open to all Chemical Spouses and chemical related civilians on Post. Please email me if you are interested in attending a fun night out. Again, we are always looking for new additions to our numerous activities. I am still collecting spouse's email addresses to let you in on the fun. Please contact me at karen.thomas2@us.army.mil for more information.

Hellfire!

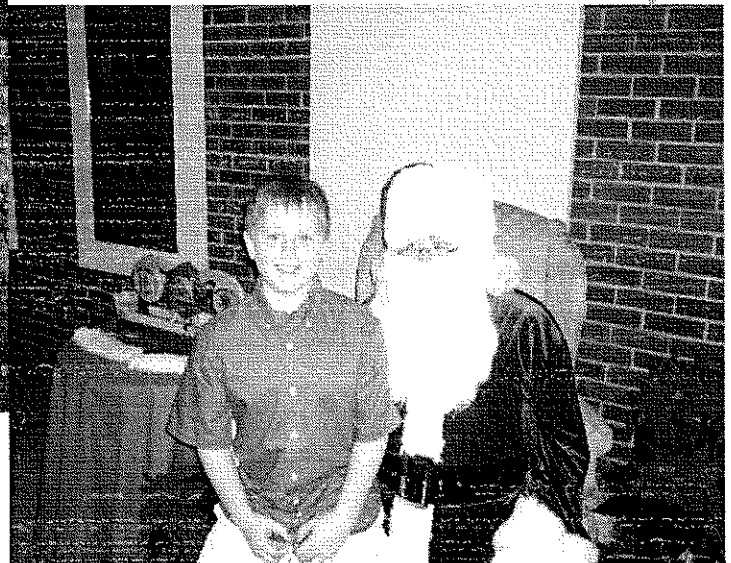
Karen



SSG Espinosa's son Gabriel, tells Santa what he wants for Christmas



LTC Thomas' son Cliff, looks excited to speak with Santa



Thank you CPT. Cyr for all the pictures of the Battalion Christmas Party!!



SSG Grandberry and his child pose with Santa



The Hovermale family waiting for Santa to arrive at the 2006 Christmas Party



Karen Thomas assisting in setting up the Christmas decorations for the Christmas Party



The Watterson family and SSG Fox anxiously await the announcements of the door-prizes

